



**J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard**

**Published monthly Volume MMXIX Issue No. 3 –March 2019 AD, 6019 AL**

**Our stated Communications are: 1st and 3rd Thursday - - Supper 6:30 – Meeting 7:30**

**The third Friday of EACH month is reserved for a public Fish Fry at the lodge - and is open to the public.**

**The fifth Thursday night of the month is reserved for family night at the lodge – and is open to the public.**

**3109 Lutz Lake Fern Road, Lutz FL 33558 Mail: P.O. Box 1475, Lutz FL 33548-1475**

**Email: [info@JFSwartsel251.org](mailto:info@JFSwartsel251.org) Website: [www.jfswartsel251.org](http://www.jfswartsel251.org) Phone: 813-949-4814**

**Facebook: [ww.facebook.com/jfswartsel251](http://ww.facebook.com/jfswartsel251)**

**If you know of a brother that is in distress or in need of a ride to the lodge for a meeting, please let us know.**

### **Your Catechism Instructors are:**

**W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W.: Stephen Edson – W.: Stuart J. Graff – Brother Raymond J. Ciunci  
Brother Craig F. Muth**

**Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?**

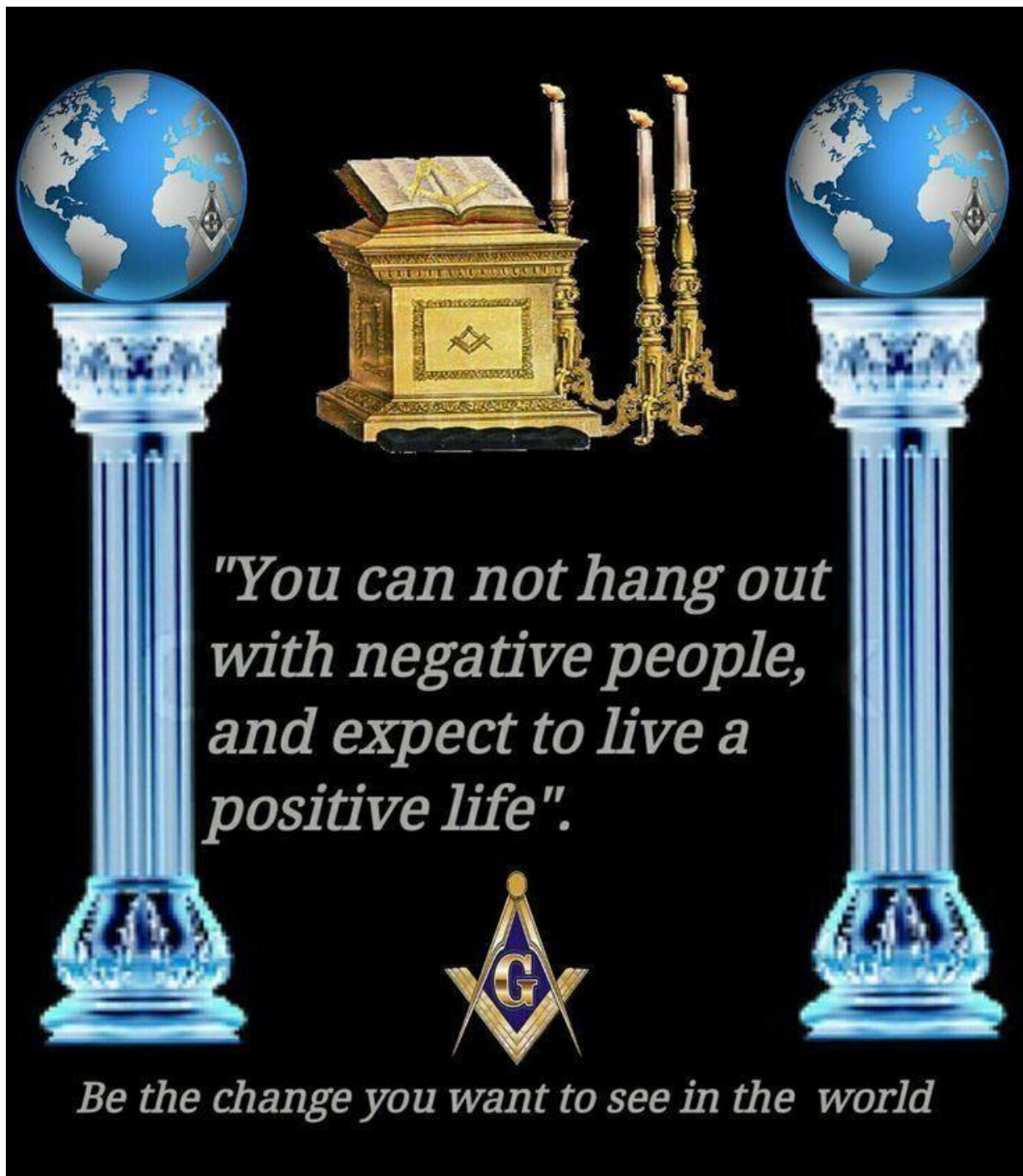
**DONATE ....  DONATE ....  = \$ DONATE .... **

The Lutz Fire Department .... TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56 ..... BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12;  
Lutz ..... Lutz Little League Baseball ..... Award two college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County ..... Mc Kitrich Elementary  
“Helping Paws Program” ..... Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County) ..... De Molay (Hillsborough County) ..... Shriners’ Hospital  
..... Lifepath Hospice ..... Jobs’ Daughters

### **Have you been to your lodge lately?**

**Do you know who returned their catechism lately or who we are preparing for advancement?**

**Would you like to help with any of the degrees?**



A very special **THANK YOU** to **all** of our Past Masters  
without whose help and guidance, we would not be where we are today.

[Below is a list of those that have not yet gone to the Celestial Lodge above.](#)

1965 W.: Thomas B. Daughtey - 1973 W.: Stanley E. James - 1976 W.: Phillip V. Getz - 1978 W.: Clark W. Barlow - 1981 W.: Edward B. Wilson - 1984 W.: Lloyd D. Herbert - 1985 W.: Charles Inman - 1986 W.: Gary F. Gentry - 1992 W.: Floyd A. Dozier - 1995 R.: W.: Donald R. Bell, PDDGM - 1998 W.: Gary A. Richey - 1999 W.: David B. Lambert, Sr. - 2000 W.: David B. Lambert, II - 2001 W.: James R. Lambert - 2002 W.: Gregory A. Lambert - 2003 W.: Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2006 W.: Joseph P. Wells - 2007 W.: William L. Boortz - 2008 W.: Gregory L. Savage - 2009 W.: Drew M. Keenan - 2010 W.: Donnel G. Cortright - 2011 W.: Richard D. Sego - 2012 W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2013 W.: Gregory L. Savage - 2014 W.: Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2015 R.: W.: Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM - 2016 W.: Danilo O. Valdez Sr. - 2017 R.: W.: Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2018 W.: Martin A. Greif

**Your 2019 J. F. Swartzel officers are as follows:**

**Worshipful Master – W.: Jerry Martin Snell, Jr.**

**Senior Warden – Brother Adam Scott Feldman**

**Junior Warden – Brother Samuel McPherson**

**Treasurer – W.: Stuart Jay Graff**

**Secretary – W.: David Bruce Lambert, sr.**

**Chaplain – Brother Al Timothy Cochran**

**Marshal – Brother LaMont Jay Richardson**

**Senior Deacon – Brother Craig Frederick Muth**

**Junior Deacon – Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci**

**Senior Steward – Brother Wade Edward Angel**

**Junior Steward – Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin**

**Tyler – Brother Brian Andrew Reach**

**Musician - Brother John Nagy**

**Historian – Brother Frank William Fernandez**



**Did you know that the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. has an AmazonSmile link that makes it easier for people to find and support our organization? If you shop Amazon.com you can join AmazonSmile and .5% of purchases on qualified purchases will be donated by Amazon to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.**

**The link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213>**



**Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!**

**R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow**



# J. F. Swartsel Lodge

Presents

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**

**VERY IMPORTANT Eyeglass Drive**



## **DONATIONS REQUESTED**

- **Men's Eyeglasses**
- **Women's Eyeglasses**
- **Children's Eyeglasses**
  - **Sunglasses**
- **ANYTHING TO DO WITH EYEGASSES**

As in the past

All collected items will be donated through your lodge to

**The Masonic Home or the charity of your choice.**

No matter who you are, if you either have (or know someone who has) any of these items available; please make an extra effort to put them in the donation box.

**All donations will be greatly appreciated by each of the recipients.**



## Chair Chatter



From the Secretary's station: ✂ W.: David B. Lambert, Sr.

### Important Dates to Remember: March 2019

- 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 6<sup>th</sup> 6:PM, MLT & District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154.
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 7:PM Masonic Park Meeting @ Tampa No. 240.
- 9<sup>th</sup> 11:AM, Masonic Home Board Meeting @ the Masonic Home of Florida.
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartzel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.**
- 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM, Friendship Chapter No. 209 Meeting.
- 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Master Mason Degree (Silva) @ Swartzel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30, Masters & Wardens @ John Darling 154.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:AM, Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
- 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.

From the Worshipful Master's station: ^ W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr.

My Brothers, I look forward to working and serving you this year. As you may know my project for this year is restoring the fire escape, bringing it up to code as well as making it safe to use. Brothers Cline and Collins have taken this project on and are doing a tremendous job and I appreciate all their hard work.

We are having a Master Mason degree on March 21. We are practicing every Tuesday and practice starts at 6:30 pm. If you would like to participate in the degree contact Brother Craig Muth.

Also I would solicit everyone's help at our monthly fish fries which are held on the third Friday of the month. We would like to see more Brothers get involved from our EA's FC's and Master Mason. We start at 3 p.m. and finish around 8:30 pm. You don't have to have to work the whole time but If you can commit to 3 hour shifts we need your help.

From the Senior Warden's station: 🏰 Brother Adam S. Feldman

In addition to being an Officer of JF Swartzel, I am also our District's Committeeman for Public Relations and Publicity. I've spoken to many Brothers during my travels, and the successful Lodges in our District seem to have two things in common. 1) A great Secretary, and 2) a strong digital presence.

I don't think we could ask for a better Secretary (though some days David might relish the idea), and our digital presence is stronger than many of the other Lodges I've traveled to. But, we aren't trying to compare ourselves to others, are we? We are trying to be better versions of ourselves, and this is a prime opportunity to improve!

Our Lodge's calendar ([jfswartsel251.org](http://jfswartsel251.org)) is regularly updated, and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/jfswarstsel251](https://facebook.com/jfswarstsel251)) is updated frequently with upcoming events and photos of past events, but there is something every one of us can do to help promote our Lodge and guarantee its survival into the future.

First, "like" and "follow" our Facebook page. Next, when you see upcoming events or photos of prior events, "share" them on your own Facebook page. This shows your Facebook friends that you are a member of our Fraternity and proud to be one. The truth is each individual Brother of the Lodge is responsible for the PR and Publicity of not only our Lodge, but of Freemasonry as a whole. In many cases, you may be the only Mason someone knows, so the posting of events and charitable work we do exposes your friend list to the kind of work Freemasonry does as a whole. Remember, through your actions online and in person, that you are someone's image of Freemasonry. By communicating our good work on social media platforms, we are exposing the gentle craft to new generations, and perhaps bringing the younger qualified prospects we all want to our doors.

From the Junior Warden's station:  **Brother Sam McPherson**

My brothers, we are already into the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of year (March) I want to congratulate bro Martin Emil Pollak on being passed to the degree of Fellow craft. Enjoy your journey to master mason and beyond.

We also had a great time at the order of the Rusty Nail in Wimauma outdoor degree if you have not experienced it put it on your list for next year. It is fun and fellowship for all.

#### The month of March meals will be:

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday stated communicated will be Mattie's sausage and cabbage,

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday w: Graff's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual wild game night. What will it be? Rumor is there will be venison and Well!!! Come out and enjoy the meals and fellowship along with business of the lodge.

I am again reaching out to the brethren as to the topic of masonic education, you would like discussed in lodge and if you would speak on it at a lodge meeting. April-December is open.

Benjamin Franklin said: "Masonic labor is purely a labor of love, he who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a mason are in dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a mason".

From Friendship Chapter #209:  **Sister Cindy Long, Worthy Matron**

It is hard to believe that this is my final missive. This year has just flown by. From Installation in March to Grand Chapter to Official Visit, it has been a busy and fun year. I want to say THANK YOU!!!! to all my sisters and brothers who took a station, promoted when asked, and helped me around the lodge. And a special thank you to all the Swartsel Lodge brothers who stepped up when I asked.

On March 7 Sam will be cooking corned beef, carrots and cabbage. On March 21 we have our annual Wild Game Supper beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please come out for these tasty treats.

Initiation of Friendship Chapter 2019-2020 officers will be at Swartsel Lodge on Saturday March 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Again, I thank everyone for their friendship and support. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon each and every one of you and give you peace. Cindy Long, (soon to be) Past Matron.

=====

# Masonic Education

Submitted by W.: Stuart J. Graff



## Freemasonry, History and The Modern World

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that can actually be traced to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century have regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and society. There are several degrees of Freemasonry, its gradal system, retain the three grades of medieval craft guilds: Apprentice, journeyman (now called Fellowcraft) and Master Mason. These are the degrees offered by craft or blue lodge Freemasonry. There are additional degrees, which vary with locality and jurisdiction, and are administered by different bodies than the craft degrees.

One of the most important Freemasons in History is US President George Washington (the first Masonic President).

George Washington. joined the Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia when he was only 20 years old, in 1752. During the War for Independence, General Washington attended Masonic celebration and religious observances in several states. He also supported Masonic Lodges that formed within army regiments, and at his first inauguration in 1791, President Washington took his oath of office on a Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York.

During his two terms, he visited Masons in North and South Carolina and presided over the cornerstone ceremony for the U.S. Capitol in 1793 which was performed at the Masonic ceremony.

In retirement, Washington became charter Master of the newly chartered Alexandria Lodge No. 22, sat for a portrait in his Masonic regalia, and in death, was buried with Masonic honors. But the truth about Freemasonry and the connection to our History, and American history is quite surprising.

Believe it or not, Freemasonry is America's largest and oldest fraternity, it has been very important part of community life in the United States for over two hundred and fifty years. Freemasonry is an initiatic society which according to the research we have done, seeks "to unite men of differing beliefs into a harmonious and productive community through the application of Masonic moral values and the practice of benevolence, intellectual development, and mutual respect."

It is not known where Freemasonry began, but we do know that the earliest recorded 'making' of a Freemason in England is that of Elias Ashmole in 1646.

Organized Freemasonry began with the founding of the Grand Lodge of England on the 24th of June 1717, on St John's Day actually, which was the first Grand Lodge in the world. Shortly after that, Ireland followed in 1725 and so did Scotland in 1736.

According to History, all the regular Grand Lodges in the world can be traced back to one or more of the Grand Lodges in the British Isles.

There are two main theories of origin. According to one, the operative stonemasons who built the great cathedrals and castles had lodges in which they discussed trade affairs. They had simple initiation ceremonies and, as there was no City and Guilds certificates, dues cards or trade union membership cards, they adopted secret signs and words to prove that they were trained masons when they moved from site to site. In the 1600s, these operative lodges began to accept non-operatives as "gentlemen masons". Gradually these non-operatives took over the lodges and turned them from operative to 'free and accepted' or 'speculative' lodges. The other theory is that in the late 1500s and early 1600s, there was a group, which was interested in the promotion of religious and political tolerance in an age of great intolerance when differences of opinion on matters of religion and politics were to lead to bloody civil war. In forming Freemasonry, they were trying to make better men and build a better world.

As the means of teaching in those days was by allegory and symbolism, they took the idea of building as the central allegory on which to form their system. The main source of allegory was the Bible, the contents of which were known to everyone even if they could not read, and the only building described in detail in the Bible was King Solomon's Temple, which became the basis of the ritual. The old trade guilds provided them with their basic administration of a Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary, and the operative mason's tools provided them with a wealth of symbols with which to illustrate the moral teachings of Freemasonry.

=====

**ANNUAL WILD GAME NIGHT – MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> – TRY IT; YOU'LL LIKE IT**



Presented to you, the brethren – by us, the brethren.

**The menu (as of this printing) will consist of:**

**Venison sausage, stew and chili; Full hog \pulled pork rabbit stew and salmon plus additional items for your culinary enjoyment.**

=====

**A quote from Brother (President) George Washington**

**Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice. To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the great object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.**